花とゆめCOMICS

とらわれの身の上

樋野まつり 1

花とゆめ COMICS

とらわれの身の上〔1〕

樋野まつり

白泉社

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花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

黒石恵と島上鈴花は両想い♡　でも島上家の憑り神・竜神のかけた呪いのため、恵は鈴花と目が合うと「下僕発作」が起きてしまう体質。その上、鈴花に求婚者が現れて…!?　描下しおまけまんがが「黒石さん家の家庭事情。」も収録。

■LaLa掲載■

白泉社

http://ephemeral.dreams.bishie-love.com

Ephemeral Dreams

Toraware no Minoue

(Captive Hearts)

Vol 01 ~ Chapter 01

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この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などとはいっさい関係ありません。

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花とゆめCOMICS

Toraware no Minoue

Captive Hearts

CHAPTER 1

HINO MATSURI

Torawareno Minoue
Captive Hearts

HOW DOES SHE LOOK?
MY FIRST BORN CHILD.
SHE'S A PRETTY LITTLE GIRL!
STARE
MEGUMI KUN,
TAKE CARE OF HER, OK.
STARTLED
HER NAME IS SUZUKA ...
SUZUKA

I SAY "USED TO" BECAUSE ...
WHEN SUZUKA WAS 3 YEARS OLD, THEY TRAVELLED TO CHINA,
AND WERE REPORTED AS MISSING.
12 YEARS LATER, THEY WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED, AND MASTER'S WILL WAS PRONOUNCED.
MASTER
PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT,
IT'S MY PLEASURE TO SERVE YOU, MASTER
KUROISHI, YOU'VE HELPED US A LOT ..
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
MY FATHER IS ...
... AS A STEWARD.
... THE SAME AS OUR ANCESTORS, HE USED TO WORK FOR THE KOUGAMI FAMILY...

MY FATHER AND I
LIVED IN LUXURY FOR TWO YEARS
SO WRITTEN
THIS WILL HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE SUZUKA WAS BORN
SO THE WILL WAS
"I WILL THAT MY PROPERTY BE DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONG MY WIFE AND KUROSHI"
SO, I CAN LIVE A STUDENT'S LIFE FREE FROM WORLDLY CARES.
AFTER HE DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO THE KOUGAMI FAMILY FOR 30 YEARS
SINCE HE GAINED THE MASTER'S CONFIDENCE
I MUST THANK MY FATHER,

"BANG"
GOOD HEAVENS! MEGUMI !!!
"PTUHH"
HMM
THIS TEA IS GOOD
HA,
YOU LOOK LIKE AN IDLE BOY.
STOP WASTING YOUR TIME LIKE THAT!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
COUGH
I WAS STUDYING BEFORE THIS
OOPS, I ALMOST FORGOT,
I RECEIVED VERY GOOD NEWS, MEGUMI !!
WHAT'S THAT?
THEY FOUND THE MASTER'S FAMILY!!
WH...
FILLED WITH DEEP EMOTION

I NEVER STOPPED PRAYING FOR THEM EVEN WHEN THE NOTICE OF THEIR DEATH WAS RELEASED.
IN 14 YEARS, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT MASTER STILL SURVIVED...
Whaa aaat ?!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY ??
TURNS
FATHER, DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SERVE RICH PEOPLE AS A SERVANT?
DON'T FORGET THAT IF THEY RETURN, WE LOSE ALL THESE PROPERTIES!
WHY ARE YOU SO HAPPY ?!
TO SERVE THE KOUGAMI FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS
SPARKLE
IT'S MY FATE .
FATE ???
WHAAT

AH... YES YES ...
SUZUKA-SAMA MUST HAVE GROWN INTO A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY
... HEH ...
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO REALIZE THE KUROISHI FAMILY'S FATE, TOO.
HMM?!
GULP!
?
A-AH, I MUST SAY GOODBYE TO ALL OF THESE PROPERTIES
.....
I'LL COME TO CHINA TO WELCOME YOU RIGHT NOW, MASTER!!
ZOOM?!
WHY DIDN'T MASTER CONTACT US ALTHOUGH HE WAS SAFE!?
OH... YES! MASTER!

AS A POOR MAN, I'LL HAVE TO FIND A PART-TIME JOB...
MAYBE I CAN TAKE A JOB IN THIS MANSION?
DING DONG
HA-
OTHERWISE
GRINS
HAHA! FEAR IS OFTEN WORSE THAN THE DANGER ITSELF!
THAT MEANS I'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE COMFORTABLY
EVIL SMILE!
MASTER PASSED AWAY BECAUSE OF ILLNESS 12 YEARS AGO IN CHINA
WHAT!!
I'LL BE EVICTED FROM THIS MANSION BY THE KOUGAMI FAMILY.
SOB SOB SOB
SOB SOB
ボロ

THIS IS THE LADY SUZUKA.
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED.
AH...!
YES...!
THAT GIRL IS...?
EEEH..!
Lady-like Image: lost
Life of Comfort: lost
FROZEN

THUMP!

TOUCH
WELCOME HOME,
HIME. (PRINCESS)

WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING!?
HUH!!
SWEAT SWEAT
THUMP THUMP THUMP
AH ...
TH THIS IS...
きょとん
SURPRISED
HA!
SNAP
WELL, HIME
SHALL I TAKE YOU INTO THE MANSION?
LIFT

SHALL I TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF...
AND PUT YOUR SLIPPERS ON
"DOOR"
THIS WAY, PLEASE
AAAAAAH!!!
"THUMP THUMP"
"HEAVY BREATHING"
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?
MEGUMI...

WHAA AAAT !?
THAT MUST BE BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO IMMUNITY TO THE KOUGAMI'S CURSE
HMM . .
HOW COULD I DO SUCH A THING!
HOW COULD I CALL THAT TOMBOY GIRL A "HIME" AND EVEN HELP HER TAKE OFF HER SHOES..
SHAKE
SHAKE
FA. FATHER!?
GLARES
THERE IS A CURSE OF THE KOUGAMI FAMILY ON OUR KUROISHI FAMILY.

IT WAS AN OLD STORY FROM THE SHIROMACHI PERIOD
THERE WAS A FAMOUS THIEF CALLED "KURONEKOMARU" (ROUND BLACK CAT) WHO OFTEN STOLE INTO THE SAMURAI'S MANSIONS
ONE DAY HE STOLE A HEIRLOOM FROM A SAMURAI'S MANSION
IT WAS A KAKEMONO OF "NOBORIRYUU" (RISING DRAGON)
AFTER GETTING OUT OF THE MANSION, KURONEKO-MARU QUICKLY SPREAD IT OUT...
AND THEN...
THE FAMILY'S GUARDIAN GOD -THE DRAGON GOD- APPEARED...
.... AND PLACED THE CURSE ON THE KURONEKOMARU AND HIS DESCENDANTS FOR 100 GENERATIONS.

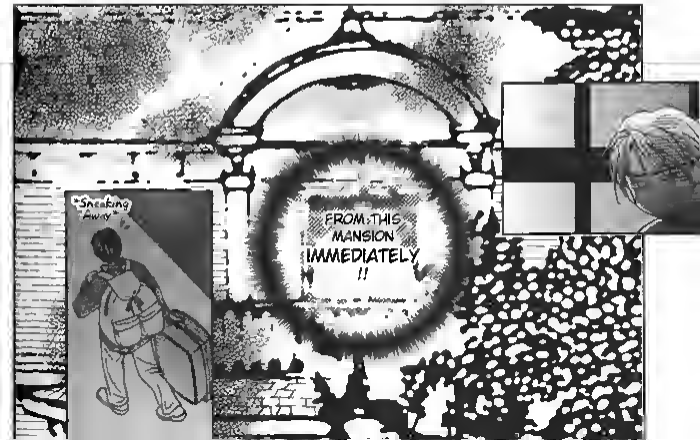
I AM THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF THE KOUGAMI FAMILY.
I CURSE YOU AND YOUR DESCENDANTS TO SERVE THE KOUGAMI FAMILY
DEVOTEDLY FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE
AND KURO-NEKO-MARU WAS
OUR ANCESTOR
IF THERE IS A CURSE,
THEN YOU'RE ALSO AFFECTED, AREN'T YOU?
RIDICU-LOUS
HAPPY
HA HA HA!
IT'S NOT THAT BAD FOR ME.
COUGH
WHAT'S WITH THAT SKEPTICAL LOOK!?
YOU'VE JUST BEEN AWARE OF IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
WELL...
AS TIME PASSED, I CAME TO GENUINELY ADORE MY MASTER
STEP

THERE'S NO WAY THAT WOULD HAPPEN FOR ME.
ADORED?
FIRST, I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT CURSE...
...
TURNS
AAAH!!
AH
HIME.
I BECOME SO STRANGE WHEN I MEET HER EYES.
THEN... THIS IS REAL!?
THUMP THUMP THUMP

... AS SUZUKA-SAMA'S SERVANT.
BOW
WELL, DO YOUR BEST...
POOF
SERVANT?
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
AND DON'T MAKE UNHAPPY EXPRESS-IONS
TEACH HER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN,
WHAT?
SHE CAN'T UNDERSTAND JAPANESE.
BECAUSE SHE'S LIVED IN CHINA FOR SO LONG,
STEP
HA
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW
WIND BLOWING
HA!

PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR FOOT
IT'S NOT GOOD TO WALK BARE FOOT, HIME
YES, THAT'S BETTER
XIE XIE
YOU'RE WELCOME
DOES SHE MEAN "THANK YOU"?
OH
NO

I GUESS I SHOULD RUN AWAY...



MY PARENTS
DAD
MOM
THERE'S A LIGHT IN THE STUDY.
OH?
SHE MUST BE LONELY.
HAVE BEEN DEAD SINCE SHE WAS 5 YEARS OLD.
THAT'S RIGHT. SUZUKA-SAMA'S PARENTS

IS THIS ALSO THE INFLUENCE OF THE CURSE ???
SNEAKING BACK
HEH. I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
AAAH! I'M SO NICE!
I'LL BECOME HER PRIVATE TUTOR...
UNTIL SHE GETS USED TO HER NEW LIFE,
HUM! HUM! HUM!
TIE
HUM! HUM!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S BEGIN!

WHAT AM I DOING?
GAH!
I CAN'T BE UNTIDILY DRESSED BEFORE HIME
TAP
TAP
CHANGED CLOTHES
THE CURSE IS SO STRONG.
I WANT TO HAVE BREAK-FAST
COOKING NOISES
DAD NEVER PREPARES MEALS...
HOW STRANGE ?
NI HAO!
GOOD MORNING!

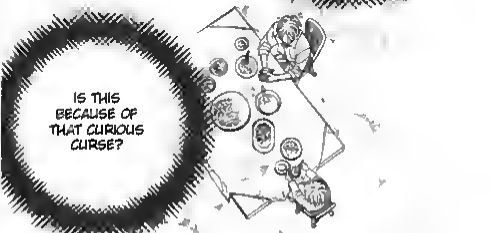
BUT, THIS TASTES DELICIOUS
HUH?
HOW COULD YOU LET THE LADY PREPARE MEALS!!
YOU IDIOT MEGUMI !!!
"GULP"
"POP"
TRY IT!
UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE CURSE
MANY THANKS FOR YOUR TROUBLE, HIME.
IT'S DELICIOUS! I'M THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD SINCE I CAN TASTE MY MASTER'S OWN DISHES!
AM I GOING TO BECOME LIKE THAT TOO?
IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS.
...uneasy.

記念すべき
初
コミックス。

いつもとちがう私!!

初めまして。
『私』です。

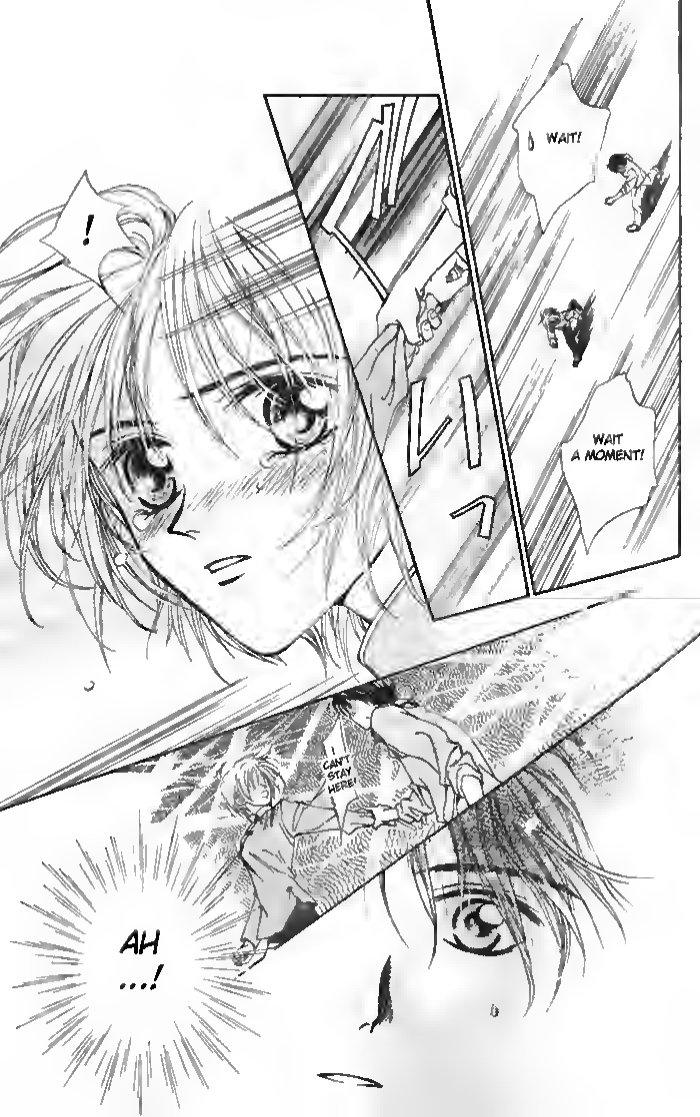
FN:●野まつり
(ふるネ:FNと読むらしい。)
血液型:B型
誕生日:●月●の1月24日
趣味:●ファイブ(名の由来は、
ナイコーだわ。よっしゃ。)
他 歌いたり 本の読破
好きなもの:本 漫画 ケーキ。



MEGUMI
OK?
HAVE YOU REVIEWED
ALL OF YESTERDAY'S LESSONS?
"KNOCK KNOCK"
BUT...
...IN THE MOMENT I MEET HER EYES...
I MUST BE ON THE ALERT
TO KEEP COOL...
...I AM BOUND BY THIS ODIOUS CURSE...

SMILE
YES?
MEGUMI
I MUST RESIST THAT ODIOUS CURSE
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
OH! IS THAT A LETTER FOR ME?
EH, WHAT IS IT ?
HOW ARE YOU TODAY?
YOU LOOK GLOOMY.
IT'S SO STRONG !!
うわぁぁぁ
HAHAHAH
MY PRIDE SHOULDN'T ALLOW IT TO CHANGE MY LIFE!!
"RECENTLY MEGUMI HAS BECOME SO COLD,
AND ALWAYS ACTS LIKE A SERVANT."
"WHY ARE YOU NOT AS ENTHUSIASTIC AS BEFORE?"
?
A SERVANT
Aaaah! Don't say that!!
THE REASON I LIKE YOU, IS NOT BECAUSE ...
... YOU'RE A SERVANT.
NEVER!!

"THUMP"
"THUMP"
DON'T LAUGH, EVEN IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT.
"THUMP"
THIS IS WHAT CAUSES THE CHANGES IN MY CHARACTER.
I'M SURE SHE CAN UNDERSTAND CHINESE KANJI CHARACTERS.
-: IT'S BECAUSE OF THE KOUGAMI'S CURSE! :-
"WRITE"
"WRITE"
"WRITE"
KU!
READ THIS!!
EH!
HEY !?


WAIT!
WAIT A MOMENT!
!
I CAN'T STAY HERE!
AH ...!

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHEN I MEET HER EYES ...
HI
HI
HUMBLE SERVANT VERSION
WHY ARE YOU WEEPING ?
HIME ...
うぅぅ
GWAAH! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
CALMED DOWN
ふや
POOR THING!

YOU'RE CRYING FOR ME?
FOR MY SAKE?
POOR MEGUMI
SUZU KA-?
GENTLE SUZUKA.

BECAUSE OF THE INHERITANCE, I HAD HOPED FOR YOUR FAMILY'S DEATH.
YET YOU WEEP FOR MY SAKE ...
LIKE THE THIEF'S DESCENDANT THAT I AM,
I AM ALSO A GREEDY GUY.
I AM THE WORST ...
SEVERAL DAYS LATER ...
SUZUKA SPOKE SOME JAPANESE FALTERINGLY.
I. . . CAME BACK HERE SINCE I WANTED TO MEET YOU.
AN OLD FRIEND THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN FOR A LONG TIME.

A FEW DAYS LATER, SHE RETURNED TO CHINA.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THIS MANSION?
IT BELONGS TO US, DOESN'T IT?
DAVID
SHE WROTE THAT IN THIS LETTER
HEH?
SO SHE WAS BROUGHT UP IN A RESTAURANT
THAT'S WHY SHE'S GOOD AT COOKING
AAAH
SUZUKA-SAMA RETURNED TO CHINA BECAUSE HER ADOPTIVE PARENTS MISSED HER
THEY RUN A SMALL CHINESE RESTAURANT

HOW ARE YOU?
DID YOUR LIFE RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER I LEFT?
I THINK YOU'LL FEEL BETTER WHEN I'M NOT THERE.
AND THE CURSE, JUST FORGET IT.
IN CHINA, THERE ARE MANY LEGENDARY TERRIBLE CURSES.
IT'S NOT ONLY YOUR CASE, MEGUMI-SAN. PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AND ABOUT THE MANSION...
EVEN THOUGH I CAN FINALLY RECEIVE THE MANSION,
I DO NOT FEEL HAPPY AT ALL.
HEY MEGUMI
YEAH?
THAT LETTER
SNUFF
SNIFF
IF YOU MISS HER SO MUCH TO HAVE TO READ IT THAT MANY TIMES.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST FIND HER AND TAKE HER BACK?
KE KE KE KE

"THROWING A TANTRUM"
DADADADADADA
OH! OH! OH!
FATHER!!
HA!
HA!
AFTER ALL, YOU REALLY HAVE THE BLOOD OF THE GREAT THIEF IN YOUR VEINS!
KE KE KE KE KE !!
KA-CHING!!
RETURN TO NORMAL!
DAD!!!
I DON'T WANT TO LIVE A CURSED LIFE.
"KNOCK"
"KNOCK"
"KNOCK"
"KNOCK"
I THINK SUZUKA-SAMA SHOULD NOT RETURN
BE SERIOUS, PLEASE!
REALLY?
YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE HER FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART ...?

YOU REALLY DIDN'T NOTICE IT, BECAUSE IT BECAME A GOOD THING.
CHINA - YUNAN PROVINCE
COOKING NOISES
IT WAS REALLY BIG TROUBLE WHEN YOU WERE NOT HERE.
THE GUESTS SAID IT WAS "NO GOOD" SINCE IT WASN'T YOUR COOKING.
SO ...
HOW WAS JAPAN?
THE AIRPORT WAS LARGE
MAMA

→ NIICHAN = BROTHER←
MEGUMI-NIICHAN —
AH HA HA HA
— IS A REALLY INTERESTING PERSON.
sizzle sizzle
AND VERY KIND.
— IF YOU WANT TO RETURN TO JAPAN
IT'S OKAY —
LOOK, IT SEEMS THAT —
— IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BE A BRIDE
WHAT —?
CLANG
MAMA —!

ARE YOU WAITING FOR HIM?
THIS YOUNG MAN HAS COME HERE TO TAKE YOU WITH HIM
MEGUMI?
EH?
SUZUKA !!

MEGUMI?
I HAVE COME HERE
—TO TAKE YOU WITH ME
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THE CURSE
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T STAND BEING SEPARATED FROM YOU

I'M TELLING YOU NOW,
I DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE MY MASTER.
IT'S BECAUSE I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
IS IT ALRIGHT IF I TAKE YOU BACK WITH ME?

Torawareno Minoue
Captive Hearts

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Toraware no Minoue

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Vol 01 ~ Chapter 02

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Translation Help by: MalAdroit
Edited by: Elie
Proofread by: Sora and AStash

TICK
TICK
TIC
TICK
WELL DONE!
YOU HAVE LEARNED ALL THE JR HIGH EXERCISES AND HIGH SCHOOL BASICS
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL WITH THIS.
WELL,
NATURALLY, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS ...
SINCE I AM YOUR PERSONAL TUTOR.
YUP! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR HARD WORK, MEGUMI.

OF COURSE!
YOUR JAPANESE HAS IMPROVED GREATLY.
SO ALL THE TIME I'VE TAKEN OFF TO TUTOR YOU HASN'T BEEN IN VAIN.
AH!
THUMP
EYES MEET
GULP
H...
HIME = PRINCESS
HIME!
CLUNK

I'M SORRY! I DON'T KNOW MY PLACE! TO BE ABLE TO LEARN SO MUCH ...
AAHHHH!
IN SUCH A SHORT TIME IS ALL DUE TO THE INTELLIGENCE THAT YOU, HIME, POSSESS!
HOW FOOLISH I AM!
AH...
PLEASE CALM DOWN, MEGUMI! YOU'RE GOING CRAZY!
NO!
SHAKE *SHAKE*
NO!
NO!
BUT I AM TRULY CALM!
I HAVE CALMLY THOUGHT THIS OVER,
AND HAVE DECIDED WITH DETERMINATION TO SERVE HIME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
★POW★

LONG AGO, DURING THE MUROMACHI ERA,
MY ANCESTOR, KURONEKOMARU, STOLE THE KOUGAMI'S FAMILY TREASURE
"THE KAKEJIKU OF NOBORIYUU" SCROLL FROM THEIR MANSION.
ONCE AT HOME, HE OPENED THE SCROLL
AND THE FAMILY GUARDIAN DRAGON SPIRIT APPEARED.
THE CURSE
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, DAD.
AND WHERE WAS THE "ELEGANCE" IN YOUR BEHAVIOR?
JUST MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH HER ACTIVATES THE CURSE.
TO BE ABLE TO SERVE THE KOUGAMI FAMILY, THE KUROISHI FAMILY HAS STRIVED FOR PROPER CONDUCT AND ELEGANCE.
MEGUMI, ARE YOU OK?
SLAP
GRAB
RUNNING
SOON, YOU ALSO WILL BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE CURSE. SO STOP THROWING TANTRUMS.
(YOU ARE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE CURSE QUITE A FEW TIMES A DAY)

THUNDER AND LIGHTING
AND THEN
AS PUNISHMENT, FOR 100 GENERATIONS,
YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL SERVE THE KOUGAMI FAMILY
PUFF
SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO STOLE THE TREASURE
HOW COULD HE PUT SUCH A HORRIBLE CURSE ON OUR KUROISHI FAMILY!!
SO IT IS SAID
MY ANCESTOR COULDN'T ESCAPE THE CURSE
MY FATHER IS NO EXCEPTION
MEGUMI, DOES IT HURT?
NO, I'M FINE. I'M USED TO IT
OF COURSE I, KUROISHI MEGUMI, SUFFER THE SAME
NO, IT'S EVEN WORSE FOR ME
SINCE I WAS SIX, I HAVEN'T BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE KOUGAMI FAMILY. SO I DON'T HAVE ANY RESISTANCE TO THE CURSE
IT ONLY TAKES A LITTLE TO MAKE THE CURSE WORK ON ME
FOR 14 YEARS, EVER SINCE THEIR TRIP TO CHINA, THE KOUGAMI FAMILY HAS BEEN MISSING
3 MONTHS AGO, WE FOUND OUT THAT BOTH MR. AND MRS. KOUGAMI PASSED AWAY DUE TO DISEASE. ONLY THEIR DAUGHTER IS STILL ALIVE

14 YEARS LATER, THE ONLY SURVIVING MEMBER OF THE KOUGAMI FAMILY...
KOUGAMI SUZUKA, RETURNED FROM CHINA
AND TOOK CONTROL OF MY FATE...
TH DH
IT'S A CURE FOR CURSES! MY CHINESE MOTHER GAVE IT TO ME!
WHAT IS THAT ?
THE CHINESE MOTHER IS THE ONE THAT RAISED SUZUKA
SMELLS AWFUL!
DRINK IT AND SEE!
HUH!?
MEGUMI!
ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL
MISS, MISS . . .
SNIFF SNIFF
?
IT'S JUST NORMAL CHINESE HERBS
TWITCH TWITCH
COMPLETELY LOSES TO 4000 YEARS OF CHINESE HISTORY
HIGH SCHOOL!!
DRANK IT OBEDIENTLY

SUZUKA NEEDS TO ATTEND THE HIGH SCHOOL WHICH IS AFFILIATED WITH MY UNIVERSITY
FOR THAT REASON, SHE HAS HAD TO STUDY HARD
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN BETTER TO TAKE THE CAR?
RIGHT?
KATONX
KATONX
BUMP!
BUMP!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN WE ARRIVE AT THE SCHOOL?
I'LL CARRY YOUR BAG
HAND IT TO ME
I'M FINE!
NO, IT'S OK.
CARS ARE A LUXURY
BUMP!
ANGRY
BEEP
ENRAGED
THE ARRIVING TRAM WILL BE STOPPING AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL CAMPUS
YOU SCUM! HOW DARE YOU TOUCH SUZUKA!
GAAA!
DRAG
DRAGGING HIM AWAY
SIGH... IT WAS THE CURSE...
I'M SORRY
REFLECTS BACK
3 KM ISN'T THAT FAR
I'M MAKING YOU WALK AN EXTRA 3 KM TO SCHOOL
AND IT'S JUST THE FIRST DAY!

Summer 1999. Bookstores nowadays usually wrap single books with plastic covermgs.

You, the person currently reading this book, did you buy it or did you borrow it from a friend?

No matter what type you are,

THANK YOU FOR STAYING INTERESTED IN THIS BOOK

I've been in this field for four years.

In these four years, bit by bit, I've learned and innovated.

It's really good that I managed to draw my way to where I am now.

The encouraging fans who keep writing, the editors who frustrate with me, the Hasuki sisters who help me over time, (they are people too) (sorry to bug you even with your poor health),

And Mom (Mom & currently learning how to erase pencil marks and how to shade)

Thank you VERY MUCH!

NO WAY!
THEN CHOOSING A SCHOOL NEXT TO MINE WOULD BE MEANINGLESS! WE CAN'T GO SEPARATELY!
SPLIT UP HERE.
HEY MEGUMI, I THINK WE SHOULD...
LISTEN, JAPANESE SCHOOLS ARE TERRIFYING.
THE TEACHERS ARE AWFUL. IT'S HELL ON EARTH.
YOUR SEMPAI WILL DEFINITELY TEASE YOU!
HOW CAN I LET YOU GO THERE BY YOURSELF?

*SEMPAI = ELDERS

IT CAN'T BE HELPED
IF WE HAVE TO SEPARATE, MEGUMI,
IT'S TRUE THAT SLOWLY I CAN BE FREE FROM THIS CURSE I USED TO HOPE FOR A HAPPY AND CAREFREE LIFE.
"SLOWLY" HUH?
.. AFTER ALL, YOU NEED TO MEET PEOPLE YOUR OWN AGE.
YOU'VE BEEN MISSING A LOT OF SCHOOL BECAUSE OF ME.
SO, STARTING FROM TODAY, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD
I'LL DO MY BEST!
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
TWO MONTHS AGO ..
SUZUKA WENT BACK TO CHINA BECAUSE SHE FELT PITY ABOUT MY CURSE,
BUT THE ONE TO PERSUADE HER TO RETURN...
...WAS ME.
OK OK
SMILING!
LET'S WALK FASTER
STEP STEP

I DON'T WANT HER TO LEAVE
BUT THAT'S MY ONLY REASON.. I DIDN'T CONSIDER SUZUKA'S DESIRES.
EVEN AFTER THIS..
AND QUIETLY CAME BACK WITH ME...
SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING...
DID SHE SIMPLY WISH TO RETURN TO HER BIRTHPLACE..
OR IS IT ...
BECAUSE SHE HAS CHOSEN TO BE WITH ME?
FACE CHANGES
YES HIME?
SMILE!
TURNS
HEY, MEGUMI
GOING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.
IT'S LIKE WE'RE BROTHER AND SISTER.
I'M ONLY CONSIDERED A FAMILY MEMBER.
SOB SOB SOB SOB

AH! MEGUMI-KUN!!!
HUG
I ASKED THE TEACHER ABOUT IT AND HE SAID YOU TOOK SOME TIME OFF
I DIDN'T SEE YOU WHEN THE SCHOOL TERM STARTED SO I WAS WORRIED!
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A LONG TIME!
IS!
DON'T BE LIKE THIS!
SAGARA, CALM DOWN! EVERYONE S WATCHING!
ISN'T THAT COOL!?
WELL, IT'S CUZ I'M TAKING DRIVING LESSONS!
YOU MUST'VE WONDERED WHY I DIDN'T VISIT!
ATTENTION
FOCUSED
STOP IT!
EH?
GOOD MORN-ING! MISS!
SMILES
WHAT A POLITE GIRL! ARE YOU MEGUMI'S GIRL-FRIEND?
WOW! HOW CUTE!
BOWS
GOOD MORNING

TOUCH
GIRL-FRIEND?
DON'T BE SO RUDE. THIS LADY HERE IS...
KISS
MY QUEEN. (OJOU-SAMA)
H
L
G
S
RIGHT ?♡
HUH?!
MEGUMI!
WHAT HAP- PENED TO YOU ?
ME ME ME ME ME-GU-MI KUN !?
YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE! IT'S SCARY! SCARY!
S...SORRY!
IT'S MY FAULT! BUT IS "HUNE" OK?
IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO CARRY SUCH A TITLE!
HOW CAN YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?! THE MOST PRECIOUS PERSON TO THIS COUNTRY IS THE QUEEN! EVEN IN CHINA AND HISTORY, THERE WERE ONLY A FEW!
CHINA ?

PANICKING
おたおた
UMM...
DO YOU HAVE YOUR HANDKERCHIEF?
YOUR BOOKS?
IS YOUR ERASER IN HERE?
HOW'S YOUR PURSE?
YOUR WATCH?
YOUR SHITAJIKI?
YOUR RED PEN?
333
おたおたおた
*SHITAJIKI = PENCIL BOARD
HEY, HEY!
MEGUMI, ARE YOU...?
SO THE INNER MASOCHIST HAS AWAKENED?
SNEER
THE CURSE "SURPRISED" ME...
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAA
I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE, SO I'M FINE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BESIDES THAT, MEGUMI
OK?
WHEN YOU'RE AT THE UNIVERSITY, YOU'RE FREE.
GLINT
SUZUKA.

BECAUSE OF THIS, I AM FREE
SHE ALWAYS WORRIES ABOUT OTHERS
SUZUKA HAS ALWAYS WANTED ME TO BE FREE.
ONLY BECAUSE OF THIS, I'M WILLING TO BE HER SERVANT.
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE
NOT BEING BY HER SIDE
HA !!
BEEP
CLICK
LET ME INTRODUCE TO YOU.
THIS IS OUR NEW STUDENT . . .

THIS IS KOUGAMI SUZUKA
SHE HAS RETURNED FROM CHINA
BOWS
PLEASE TEACH ME MORE ABOUT JAPANESE CULTURE
WAH!
SINCE YOU'VE JUST RETURNED, HAVE YOU VISITED PLACES AROUND HERE?
DURING CHINESE LANGUAGE CLASS
OH! CHINA!
CHINESE DRESSES ARE REALLY BEAUTIFUL
DAIKENJI
WAH!
PLEASE SAY SOMETHING IN CHINESE
WAH!
WANNA JOIN OUR CHEERLEADING CLUB?
MAYBE YOU COULD DO SOME ACROBATICS LIKE THEY DO IN THE SHANGHAI CIRCUS
I DO KNOW A LITTLE BUT
SPORTS CLASS
WE NEED MEMBERS
WAH!
HEY... SUZUKA-CHAN.
LUNCH TIME
DID YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND IN CHINA? (HE SAYS "KARESHI")
BOY-FRIEND ?
YES, BOY-FRIEND. DID YOU HAVE ANY? NO?
"RUNNING"
SU!
ZU!
KA!
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO KARAOKE TODAY?
JUST THE TWO OF US.
WELL... IT DOESN'T MATTER.

DID HE DO ANYTHING TO YOU!?
SNATCH
DISAP-PEARED.
TAPTAP TAPTAP TAPTAP
EH
MEGUMI !?
HAI HAI HAI HAI
HEY! YOU!
plates
YES?
IF YOU TOUCH EVEN ONE OF HER HAIRS,
ME?
I WOULD LOOK OUT IF I WERE YOU.
YOU MIGHT EVEN GET THE CURSE OF THE DRAGON.

WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
AH, I WAS JUST PASSING BY
BYE!
FROZEN
AAHHH!
MEGUMI
YOU HAVE LEAVES IN YOUR HAIR.
ACK!
WHERE WERE YOU?
WEREN'T YOU AT THE UNIVERSITY?
IS HE YOUR BROTHER?
YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
HEY, KOUGAMI-SAN!
WHO WAS THAT PERSON?
YAH!

EXCUSE ME?
WHAT DOES THIS "BOYFRIEND" (KARESHI) MEAN?
SILENCE
SILENCE
SILENCE
... NO WAY. ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
IDIOT?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE FROM CHINA?
OK, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU!
IT MEANS
"LOVER"
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
IT'S HOW YOU WRITE IT IN KANJI.
THIS IS BAD
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SHE KNOWS I'M HERE AT HER SCHOOL.
LOVER
MAYBE SHE'LL CRY..
LOVER?
WHAT!
IS SHE BEING HARASSED BY SOMEONE AGAIN?
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT!?
IN ACTION !!!
ZOOM!

HA
SUZUKA!
KYAAA!
WOMEN'S TOILET
MEGUMI?!
A PERVERT IS PEEKING INTO THE GIRL'S BATHROOM!
THROW
THROW
THROW
BAM!
!
I'M SO TIRED
HAH
HAH
RUSTLE
DON'T DO ANY-THING RECK-LESS.
THAT WAS DANGER-OUS.
TOUCH
I'M ALL RIGHT.

I ALSO DON'T WANT YOU HURT.
SHE'S REALLY CRYING, HUH?
STOPS CARESSING
SIGH
SUZUKA IS ALSO REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME.
YOU ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME, AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE HURT.
...UM, YOU KNOW... WE...
STANDS
WHAT'S WRONG?
WE LOOK LIKE LOVERS... THAT'S WHAT MY CLASSMATES ARE SAYING.

SHAKES
SHAKES
MEGUM!...
BUT IT'S WRONG, ISN'T IT?
YOU ARE LIKE MY PRECIOUS FAMILY
WITH MR KUROISHI .. YOUR FATHER,
I HAVE ONLY THE THREE OF YOU.
AND MY MOTHER IN CHINA.
DOES IT LOOK THAT WAY..?
SMILING
IT'S FINE WITH ME.

SUZUKA!
I DON'T MIND BEING A SERVANT
I JUST HOPE YOU CAN FEEL...
GRAB
WHEN I EMBRACE YOU,
IN MY ARMS
RUSTLE
THERE'S A VERY SPECIAL FEELING...
...THUMP...
THUMP...

PU
SH!!
!?
WHAT'S WRONG?
BLUSH

SO YOU REALLY ARE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL
MEGUMI -kun...
I FOUND YOU
Ack!
...EH?
HUUP
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW
SAGARA
TONIGHT, EVERY-BODY IS GOING FOR A DRINK TO CELEBRATE YOUR RETURN
I CAME TO ASK IF YOU HAVE TIME TO ATTEND.
BUT YOU NEVER SHOWED UP FOR CLASS.
NOW I KNOW YOU DIDN'T EVEN ATTEND CLASSES.
I'M WORRIED
YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH.
YOU WEREN'T LIKE THIS BEFORE.
I'M SORRY! IT'S MY FAULT!
AH... SO POLITE !!
RUNS AWAY!
WHY ARE YOU CRY-ING?!
HIME! WAIT FOR ME!!
SERVANT MODE SWITCH ON

COME BACK
HEY
PLEASE DON'T BE LIKE THIS!
NO! YOU MUST STOP!
DON'T COME HERE!
THE LADY SAID THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU TWO ISN'T NORMAL
PANT
SUZUKA!?
SU...
SO...
STAY AWAY
UNTIL THE CURSE IS OVER, DON'T COME NEAR ME!
WHY!?!
IS WHAT SHE SAID
KEEP OUT!!
KEEP

IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A HOUSEKEEPER
HE SAID.
MR KUROISHI IS STILL ADDRESSING ME AS "LADY". (OJOU-SAMA)
IF YOU SAY IT'S "AN ORDER",
AND NOT "A REQUEST",
IF IT'S FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MASTER,
I DON'T DARE NEGLECT THIS
I AM EVEN WILLING TO SACRIFICE MY LIFE
IT'S AN ORD...
"...SUZUKA..."

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Ephemeral Dreams

Toraware no Minoue

(Captive Hearts)

Vol 01 ~ Chapter 03

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YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE ORDERS
TO KUROISHI FAMILY MEMBERS
YES, PAPA
?
TORAWARE NO MINOUE
CAPTIVE HEART
とらわれの身の上

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT THERE WOULD BE A DAY LIKE THIS
LADY... (OJOU-SAMA)
IT WAS JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO,
I WAS BLINDED BY THE LURE OF MONEY...
AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
IT'S ALSO GOOD EXERCISE.
OK! AFTER COOKING IS CLEANING! CLEANING!
PHEW!
RUNNING
DON'T WORRY, I OFTEN DID THIS WHEN I LIVED IN CHINA
EH?
SOB SOB
PLEASE LET THE COOK AND MAID DO THE HOUSEWORK.
SOB SOB
OK?
AND NOW...
I really do want to steward's work.
BUT NOW WE ONLY HAVE A GARDENER AND A HOUSEKEEPER WHO COME IN ONCE A WEEK
THERE WERE 10 SERVANTS WHEN LADY'S PARENTS WERE STILL ALIVE..
DON'T TRY TOO HARD
LADY DOES EVERY-THING BY HERSELF
SOB SOB
SOB SOB
THERE'S A GUY THAT ALWAYS QUIETLY WATCHES OVER HER..

GZ-ZZR!
SWOOSH!
SWISH!
IF YOU WANT TO UHM... KUROISHI-SAN,
PLEASE REARRANGE THE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY
YES!
FLOPS DOWN
....
MY DAD SURE LOOKS YOUNG AND HEALTHY
SINGING SOUNDS
LADY'S FAVORITE BOOKS
HE'S FREE!
MEGUMI
SUZUKA

UM..
YOU KNOW ...
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING MYSELF A NUISANCE YESTERDAY.
BOWS
Um umm
I SORT OF PANICKED ...
Absolutely should not stay in this same room.
AS YOU TOLD ME YESTER-DAY, I DIDN'T APPROACH YOU..
AH ...
..UM.. IT'S HARD TO TALK WHEN THE DISTANCE IS SO FAR
CRASH
AH
I
STARTLED
YOU'RE WRONG..!
IT'S NOT AN ORDER ..
Hmm
I CAN'T DEFY YOUR ORDER

"BANG"
Became cushion automatically
THAT WAS DANGEROUS...
DOES YOUR FACE HURT?
NO...
REAL-LY...?
RUSTLE
SUZUKA
THUMP
!!

"...SPECIAL FEELINGS..."
PLEASE FORGET ABOUT ..
WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY
YESTER-DAY ..
Y...
YES?
THUMP
AGAIN!
THUMP
"SPECIAL"
THUMP
I CAN FEEL MEGUMI'S BODY TEMPERATURE.
YES... THAT'S PROBA-BLY IT...

I ALSO HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS.
THUMP.
"MEGUMI"
JUST LIKE THAT, I HAVE SO MANY THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD.
YOU PROBABLY HATE ME FOR SAYING SUCH THINGS TO YOU...
WHY ...!? (CHINESE)
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE YOU, I REALLY LOVE YOU!
!
PULLS AWAY
EH?
I MADE YOU CRY AND CONFUSED YOU...
YESTERDAY AS WELL,
THE TRUTH IS I LOVE YOU, MEGUMI!

I LOVE YOU....
SO ..
REALLY?
PHEW——...
I'M NOT HATED...
SO, YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY THAT ...

IT'S NICE TO KNOW MEGUMI'S HEART LIKE THIS,
THAT'S GREAT
FEELS RELIEVED...
BUT I'LL ALWAYS BE AFRAID
———— ARE THESE HIS TRUE FEELINGS?
OR IS THIS BECAUSE OF THE CURSE ————?
I'M AFRAID.
I CAN'T ACCEPT HIS FEELINGS
SOMEDAY ...
IF HE BECOMES FREE OF THE CURSE,
HE WILL FORGET ME,
AND LEAVE ME.
THEREFORE ——

SORRY, SUZUKA...
AS REQUESTED ...
HUH?
CURSE
CURSE
CURSE
CURSE
IT SEEMS THAT
THE CURSE HAS BEGAN ITS EFFECT.
VOICE QUIVERS
AH!!
GRAB!
"SURPRISE"
"BLINK"
BLINKS
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!! I HONORED YESTERDAY'S REQUEST!!
STOP IT, DON'T DO THAT DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
GRAB
I'M SO HAPPY!
AAAH!!
BECAUSE I CAN SERVE YOU FROM NOW ON, HIME!!
ME .. MEGUMI!
"HIME = PRINCESS"

I'M SORRY. I LOST MY MIND AGAIN.
I SEE I GUESS I SHOULD KEEP MY DISTANCE.
SORRY FOR SLAPPING YOU.
GETS DEPRESSED
YOU DID YOUR BEST
WAIT!
MEGUMI
SEE YOU.
WALKING AWAY DEJECTEDLY
HERE
I WANT YOU TO KEEP THIS.
IT'S ONE OF THE EARRINGS I ALWAYS WEAR..
WHEN YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT THE CURSE, YOU CAN SEE IT AND REMEMBER ME,
AND PERHAPS YOU WILL FEEL BETTER?
IF YOU'RE HOLDING IT, I'LL ALSO BE HAPPY...

それは2～3年前の
1ヶ月前くらいの
同僚の言葉でした。
(私は兼業マンガ家)

「せっかく漫画家さんなら
現実では なかなか
体験できないような仕事
話させてほしい。
現実そのまま漫画で
私、現実で痛めてから
ねえ。 どうせなら
夢 見させてよ。」

その言葉が私を
悩ませ続けた。

そして 生まれたのが

とらわれの
身の上。

ふざけた マンガだ
すみません。
でも結構 本気 してます。

"I LOVE YOU"
SHE COULD SAY IT DIRECTLY
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.
WHAT A SIMPLE AND GENTLE GIRL..
"PLEASE KEEP IT."
WITHOUT ANY PRETENSE.
HEH
I'LL BE AFFECTED WITHOUT NOTICING IT...
I CAN'T HATE HER AT ALL...
SUZUKA...
I WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE NOT BECAUSE OF THE CURSE,
BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR EXISTENCE

IMPACT
"YOU MUST ALWAYS KEEP YOUR MIND CALM AND INTELLIGENT"
IT'S A STEWARD'S MOTTO.
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
TOTTERING
A NEW WEEK WILL BEGIN TOMORROW.
HOW SHOULD I DEAL WITH HER?
S-I-G-H!
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
BUT.. I'M STILL WORRIED ...!
That's not the way to do things
NO, I SHOULD NOT.
SHOULD I KEEP ON WATCHING OVER HER SECRETLY ...?
LEAVE ME ALONE.
TRUDGE
YOU LOOK SO MISERABLE!
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
INTELLIGENT HUH..
I'LL RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY ...
I SEE...

IT'S A PROMISE, DEFINITELY!
OK? SUZUKA.
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND.
BUT IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A CALCULATOR THAN A CELLULAR PHONE
DO—NG
DI—NG
DI—NG
CALL ME WHENEVER YOU HAVE A PROBLEM
UNCONVINCING SMILE
DO YOU? (REST)
DON'T FALL ASLEEP DURING YOUR LECTURES, OKAY?
I'M NOT SO BAD, AM I?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
BAG?
GRAB
MEGUMI-KUN, ♡ YOUR SCHOOL IS THIS WAY!
WRONG WAY!
BUT I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT SUZUKA!!

5 minutes ago
Please take care of Megumi Sagara-san!
I'VE JUST BEEN RECRUITED BY SUZUKA.
GIGGLE ♡
Why does she look so happy?
HEY, SAGARA
GULP
FEELS UNEASY
WELL, LET'S GO. ♪
HIME! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
STAGGER
GO YOUR BEST
The only real trait is damage caused by homicidal impulses.
Ephemeral Dreams

NORMAL....?
OH!
IT'S GOOD THAT HE LOOKS AS HE NORMALLY DOES...
I CAME BECAUSE I'M SO WORRIED FOR HIM....
I don't think I understand him very well.
THUMP
THUMP
SNEAK
GANE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM 'NORMAL' AT ALL.
"NORMAL"
IS THIS THE "REAL MEGUMI"?
WHAT IS HE THINKING ABOUT?

MUTTER
AH SHOULD I TELL HER ABOUT THAT?
MUTTER
CROUCHED
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN CLASS?
MUTTERING
HEY, MEGUMI
YOU'RE TAKING NOTES, RIGHT?
STARTLED
NO, NOTHING
CHUCKLING
DAMN! I'LL TRY TO CALL HER LATER
YEAH OF COURSE CONCENTRATE ON YOUR LESSONS
STARE
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
WAIT A MINUTE, MEGUMI.
MUTTERING
PLEASE TELL ME IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLES.
MUTTERING
I'M YOUR FRIEND, AREN'T I?
MUTTERING
THROB
IT'S CONTINUED.
The cellular phone connection didn't break off.
AH, I CAN HEAR MEGUMI'S VOICE.
RING
SURPRISED
RING
OH, NO! I PUSHED THE WRONG BUTTON!
AH! THAT'S NOT IT EITHER.
BE STEALTHY
Did something happen to her?
EH? IT HUNG UP
DOES SHE HAVE A BREAK NOW...?
"PIP!"
P!
RING...
THUMP
PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE
THUMP
THUMP

A CURSE !?
...FOR GENERATIONS..
...IT'S SO BAD TO EAVESDROP ...
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
ON OTHERS' CONVERSATION, BUT ...
IT'S JUST LIKE A FUNNY STORY
THROBBING WITH PAIN...
I FEEL SO...
ENVIOUS OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP...
BUT, YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT...
FROM BEFORE
MUTTER
MUTTER
YEAH ...
IN ORDER TO INHERIT THEIR PROPERTIES,
I USED TO HOPE THE KOUGAMI FAMILY HAD DIED

ME
STATIC
GUMI
AH!
IS IT TRUE?
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT?
I WOULDN'T ... BELIEVE IT IF I...
SUZUKA
!?
JUMPS
!!
SLAM
DASH

SUZUKA!
BANG
HEY, WHO MADE THAT NOISE!?
Is he in trouble?
Megumi-kun
GASP
GASP
LIGHTLY
……
LIN!
IT'S NOT TRUE
BECAUSE THAT'S IN THE PAST.
PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. .
I'M NOT ANGRY .
I'M JUST …

I DON'T UNDERSTAND .... I'M CONFUSED...
AH..
IF IT'S AN ORDER,
WOULD YOU TELL ME... WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT...?
I DON'T KNOW.. WHAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT...
"YOU SHOULDN'T,"
"GIVE ORDERS TO KUROISHI FAMILY MEMBERS."

AH ...!
THUMP
THUMP
EH ...?
I TAKE IT BACK!
NO.. I DIDN'T MEAN...!
What do you want to know ?
I CAN'T, I MUST OBEY THAT ORDER..
UH ....
FUU.
IN COMPLIANCE TO YOUR ORDER.
GLINT

CURSE
I'LL TELL YOU MY MIND....
THINK
PLEASE DON'T!
AFTER ALL, I....
GRAB
BE CAREFUL, LADY!!!
AH,
LET ME TAKE OUT THIS BOTHERSOME GUY
I DON'T WANT TO EXPOSE ANYONE LIKE THIS!
WHAT SHOULD I DO!? AN ORDER CAN'T BE RETRACTED!!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
STRAIGHT
KUROISHI-SAN, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
THAT WAS DANGEROUS
BECAUSE I'M YOUR STEWARD.
OUCH OUCH OUCH

OMAKE MANGA.
SEVERAL HOURS LATER.
.....
.....
KUROISHI-SAN WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM LIKE THIS FOR TOO LONG
HMM, WE HAVE NO CHOICE
GRUMPLE
IMPACT...
SHINE
!!!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, PLEASE GET OUT OF HERE, LADY
MAGIC HANDS!!
TO BE CONTINUED!!

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Ephemeral Dreams

Toraware no Minoue

(Captive Hearts)

Vol 01 ~ Chapter 04

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とらわれの身の上
TORAWARE NO MINOUE
CAPTIVE HEART

MY FATE LIES IN THE "SERVANT'S CURSE".
THE KOUGAMI MASTER'S ORDER
..."NEVER HARM YOUR MASTER."
THE KUROISHI FAMILY MEMBERS MUST OBEY THIS ..
EVEN IF I MUST CHANGE MY LIFE ...
STOP ....
MEGUMI!!!
GRAB
HUH?
GRAB
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AAAAAH! THIS IS THE THIRD TIME THAT I WAS CAUGHT...
FINALLY, I'VE CAUGHT YOU, HIME
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!
I WON'T LISTEN! THAT ORDER WAS WRONG!
GRAB
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU MY TRUE HEART AS YOU ORDERED.
PLEASE LET GO OF ME OR I'LL BEAT YOU.
PLEASE LISTEN TO IT.
I MUST DO AS YOU ORDERED

KACHING!
I WAS ONLY GONE FOR A FEW MINUTES...
DO YOU WANT TO STOP ME WITH THAT SWORD?
KUROISHI YOSHIMI
EMPTY
FROWN
AH!
IT SEEMS THAT YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!
FULL NAME
KUROISHI YOSHIMI
PAUSE
SWING
CLANG
RETURN BACK TO NORMAL, MEGUMI!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
You can't call your father by his full name!!
Returned to normal
I'M SORRY, MEGUMI
I MUST DO THAT...
Well Lady
EVERYTHING IS OK NOW.
THAT MUST HAVE HURT.
pop pop
GASP
I BECAME STRANGE AGAIN.

BUT...
ISN'T IT WRONG TO FORCE SOMEONE TO REVEAL HIS FEELINGS?
SERIOUS
SUZUKA
BUT
IF IT'S AGAINST ONE'S WILL ..
NOT ONLY TO RETRACT THE ORDER,
BUT TO ALSO BREAK THIS CURSE.
I'LL DEFINITELY FIND A WAY,

I'LL DEFINITELY SAVE YOU...
FROM THIS UNREASONABLE POWER BINDING YOU!
BAM!
"DON'T TELL ME YOUR TRUE HEART."
IF SHE WANTS TO CANCEL THE ORDER, WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST GIVE ME ANOTHER ORDER?
HMM...

ON NO! MY PERSONALITY CHANGED AGAIN!!
Oooh! What should I do? That was close!
YOU IDIOT!! HOW IS IT GOOD TO GIVE ANOTHER ORDER!?
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ANOTHER ORDER WILL JUST REPEAT YOUR PROBLEM!?
SHE SHOULD DEFINITELY NOT GIVE ANOTHER ORDER!
HUH!?
SHE MAY GET TIRED AND HAGGARD!
IN A RAGE
AND EVEN THEN YOU LOOK AT HER WITH THOSE DISAPPROVING EYES...!!
SUZUKA ... FOR MY SAKE...
TO AVOID THAT, FOR TWO DAYS THE LADY HAS SEARCHED THROUGH
THE OLD DOCUMENTS IN THE LIBRARY AND THE CLOSET...
Alas, Lady's parents in heaven, please take care of her...
SOB SOB
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I CAN'T LET SUZUKA DO ANY MORE HARD WORK!
TURNS
FATHER...! I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK...

EH?
CLICK
IT'S TRUE
THAT I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB SUZUKA,
AND I ASKED YOU TO HELP ME,
BUT YOU CAN'T CONFINE ME LIKE THIS..

「とらわれの身の上」にとらわれた私。

なんと…

記念すべき初連載ｗ!!

最初の読み切りで描いていた頃は、もちろん予想もしてなかった事態。

それが何と、3回連載へ成長とは!

をしてをして、さらに続きも描かせていただける事に。

皆様のお陰です。うれしい。

連載ながきゃぬーっ。

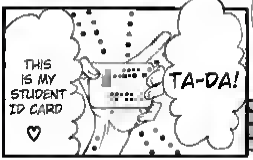
DEFI-
NITELY
ZZZ...
SAVE
YOU
HUH?
JUMPS
GOOD MORNING, LADY! HAVE YOU FOUND SOMETHING?
NO, I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING.
I fell asleep
POP!
IS THAT SO? WELL, IT'S TIME FOR A TEA BREAK.

MEGUMI .. IS HE OK? IT'S REALLY QUIET..
I LEFT HIM IN THE CAGE TO CALM DOWN.
A... CAGE?
PLEASE UNDER-STAND,
HE WENT THERE FOR YOUR SAKE.
"REELS IN SHOCK"
MEGUMI!
YES, A "CAGE."
CAGE !!?
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT!
I'M SORRY, MEGUMI ..
YES..
BESIDES THAT LADY,
TODAY IS MONDAY.
YOU HAVE SCHOOL.
I'M PROBABLY JUST RUNNING AWAY.

IT'S BECAUSE I'M SCARED TO KNOW WHAT'S HIDDEN IN MEGUMI'S TRUE HEART.
I'M STRUGGLING,
I AM BEING UNFAIR TO HIM.
AND IT HURTS MEGUMI.
PAT
GOOD MORNING, SUZUKA-CHAN! ♡
SAGARA-SAN...
OH? WHERE'S MEGUMI-KUN?
LOOKS AROUND
LOOKS AROUND
MEGUMI ...

BLUSH
HE'S BEHIND VERY RUSTY IRON BARS.
SHOULD I BREAK OUT OF THIS CAGE..?
HMM... IS THAT SO?
I REALLY DON'T BELIEVE IN THE CURSE AT ALL, BUT...
BUT I'LL PROBABLY JUST TORMENT SUZUKA.
IT'S GOOD FOR ME TO OBEY THE ORDER...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DON'T TRULY BELIEVE IN MEGUMI, ISN'T THAT IT?
...EH?
POOR MEGUMI.

LISTEN,
I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET.
RUMMAGE


THIS IS MY STUDENT ID CARD ♡
TA-DA!

SEE?
IT'S A MAN'S NAME, ISN'T IT?
SAGARA GOUSHI

I KNOW,
YOU HAVE A FEELING OF INFERIORITY
AND YOU CAN'T TALK ABOUT THIS WITHOUT PROTESTING

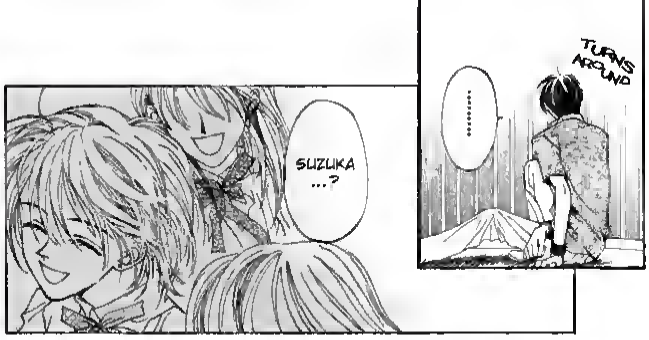
SHARP PAIN
IF YOU BELIEVED IN HIM,
YOU WOULDN'T BE AFRAID TO KNOW HIS TRUE HEART.

OOH!
HA HA!
THANKS FOR BEING SURPRISED ♡

WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL,
I DECLARED THAT "I'LL BE A LADY" AND MEGUMI GOT GOOSE BUMPS....
I BECAME REALLY UPSET AND SAID THAT I WOULD BREAK OFF ALL RELATIONS WITH HIM
I THOUGHT HE WOULD AVOID ME..

HE'S A MAN YOU CAN BELIEVE IN....
PERHAPS IT WAS NOT A GOOD WAY TO DEAL WITH A GIRL,
BUT I THINK IF HE HONESTLY TELLS YOU HIS FEELINGS,
BUT SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
MEGUMI CAME TO ME AND SAID THAT
"EVEN IF YOUR APPEARANCE CHANGES, YOU ARE STILL YOURSELF
SO BE PATIENT AND CALM AND YOU WILL BE BEAUTIFUL AT ANY RATE," HE SAID
WHEN HE CHASED AFTER ME TO CHINA,
SUZUKA!
AND TOOK ME BACK TO JAPAN,
WHY IS IT THAT I COULD GO WITH HIM WITHOUT ANY HESITATION?

HUH?
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
SCRAPE
FALLS LIKE A LOG
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
NO ....
BUT WHY DID I JUST HAVE AN UNEASY FEELING...
ROLL
.....
WHAT IS IT...?
AT THAT TIME, I FELT IT CLEARLY,
MEGUMI'S STRONG HEART...
YOU'RE RIGHT ...
I ALSO BELIEVE THAT...

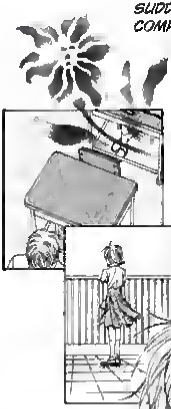


I FELT LONELY

WHEN MY SURROUNDINGS SUDDENLY CHANGED COMPLETELY.

SO I WANTED TO RETURN TO CHINA IMMEDIATELY.

BUT



I KNEW HE BURIED HIS OWN SADNESS . . .

AS WELL AS HIS HEART

HE BECAME —— AN IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME.

THEREFORE, I MUST BELIEVE IN HIM FROM NOW ON!
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD COME FOR ME
GASP
I BROKE OUT OF THAT CAGE,
GASP
GASP
No experience in driving
I FINALLY GOT HERE...
AND USED THE CAR.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!
SURPRISED
GRIN
TREMBLE
CLANG
HIME, I WILL TELL YOU WHAT I REALLY FEEL IN MY HEART
I FEEL UNEASY UNTIL I'VE TOLD YOU THAT..
.....

THE ORDER
"DO NOT HARM YOUR MASTER"
!
WILL BE EXTINGUISHED ...
GOODBYE, MEGUMI
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOUR TRUE HEART ...
THROB
EH?
SUZUKA !?
WIND BLOWING
READY TO JUMP

CLANG

DO YOU WANT TO CANCEL YOUR ORDER IN THIS WAY!?
YOU IDIOT!
Y...
BUT
I DON'T HAVE ANY SOLUTIONS TO BREAK THIS CURSE.
GASP
GASP
SHAKE
...BUT
THAT'S NOT IT.
I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU CAPTURED BY THE CURSE LIKE THIS...
I...!
SQUEEZ

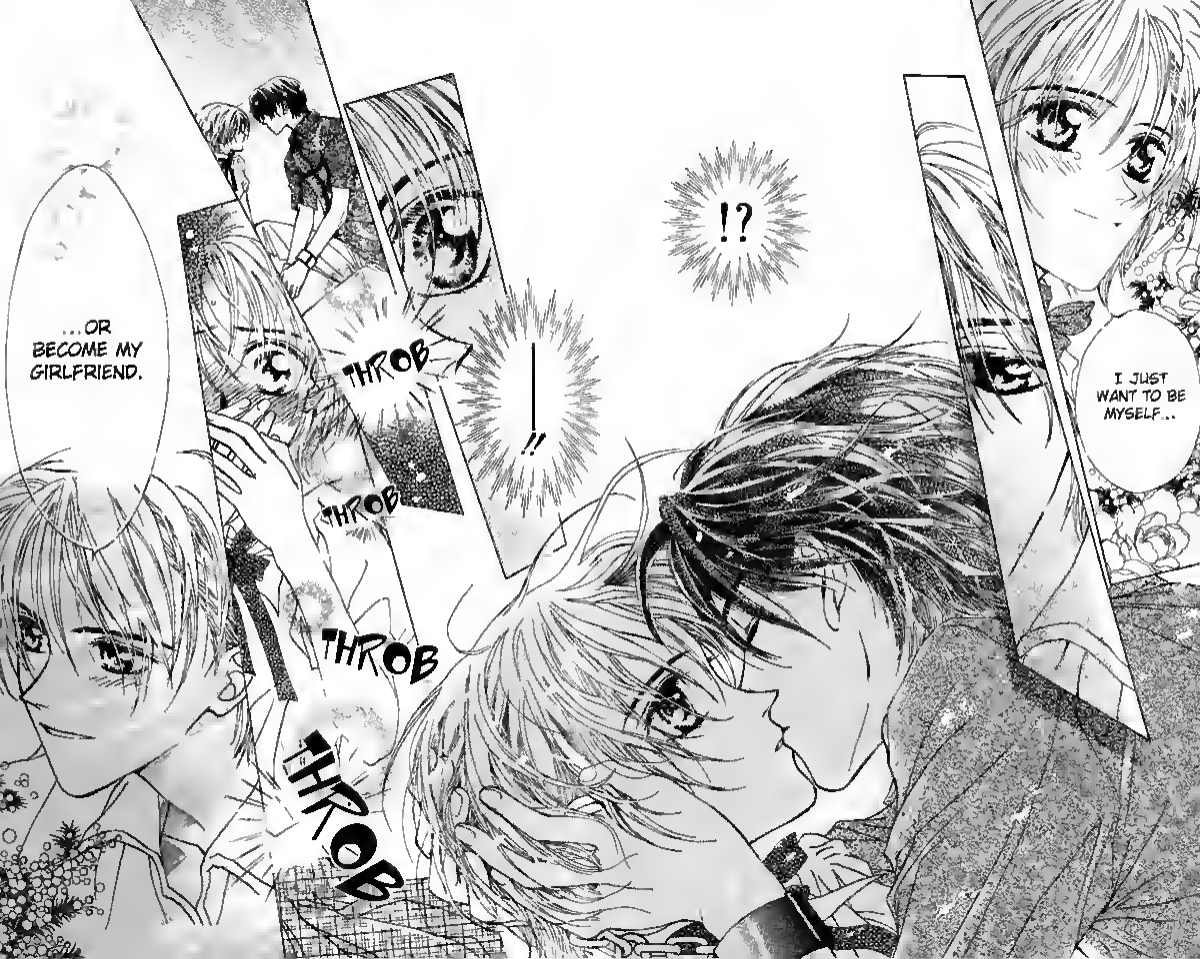
.....
TONK
I TRUST ONLY YOU, MEGUMI!!

THESE FEELINGS,
I WANTED HIM TO NOTICE THEM QUICKLY.

THAT'S WHAT I'M REALLY THINKING NOW,
SO..
THIS "CURSE" IS NOT A JOKE...
DON'T CRY...
PAT
BUT I DON'T CARE BECAUSE IT'S FOR SUZUKA'S SAKE...
I'M... SORRY...
SINCE I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU DIDN'T REALLY LIKE ME, SO...
.....
I WAS UNFAIR... AND RAN AWAY...

"TOUCH"
KYAA !?
BANG
STOP!
IT'S OK. I JUST WANT TO PUT IT ON FOR YOU.
I... I CAN DO IT BY MYSELF!
IT'S OK, IT'S OK.
YOUR EARRING,
I JUST WANT TO RETURN IT...
Your right earring
IT SEEMS SUZUKA'S EAR IS VERY SENSITIVE.
SURPRISED
HYA!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
STARE
HUH? WHAT?
OK, IT'S FINISHED

GRAB
CLANG
EH?
SLIP
I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR MASTER,
THUMP THUMP
OH, NO... HE LOOKED INTO MY EYES. HE'LL BECOME STRANGE AGAIN
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE?
THEREFORE I AM TRYING TO BREAK THIS CURSE FOR YOU.
SURPRISED ME...


...OR BECOME MY GIRLFRIEND.
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
!!
!?
I JUST WANT TO BE MYSELF...

SELF-EXAMINATION
I'M TRAINING
POP
POP
WHAT DO YOU ASK?
That hurts
SIGH
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR MAKING THE LADY CRY
HUFF
HUFF
I'M SORRY FOR DOING SUCH A BAD THING!!!
Still hasn't been cured from the curse yet
ACK
CURSE
CURSE
DRIP
DRIP
...!?
!
IT'S BECAUSE I LIKE YOU...
IT'S NOT THAT I HATE YOU...
TORAWARE NO MINOUE / VOLUME 1 END

時間を凍らせて
Let the Time Freeze

CLINIC
SHUN
SHUN
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
close your eyes
SARA
Ephemeral Dreams

and if you touch him with your lips
then you can see him
much better than using your eyes
FUKI
FUKI

Su
This guy doesn't know my feelings
since I don't want him to know it...
I dare to touch him
only at a time like this when there are just the two of us...
-SFX BY OOOOO:-
ヒヨオオオオ
fall more
and confine us here a little longer
So...please snow...

雪国のロマンを伝えたかったのじゃ。

でも上手くないも

「時間を凍らせて」は、一応、極野の生息する北海道が舞台。

んでもって「とらわれ～」に登場する 昂上琴も札幌の とある古い建物がモデル。

極野は 北海道のどか～～ん として さっぱり とした所が好きです。

あとがき

has been my classmate since elementary schaal

BAFU

I DIDN'T MEAN TO.

BWAH!

BECAUSE

THE SNOW STOPPED..

THE SNOW-SWEEPER AND THE BUS ARE ABOUT TO COME

WEAR IT QUICKLY!

EH?

LIWAA

WE CAN GO HOME AT LAST!

THE CLINIC HERE IS SO WARM IT MAKES ME SLEEPY AND THE CLASS-ROOMS

ARE TOO COLD

雪国のロマンを伝えたかったのじゃ。

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「時間を凍らせて」は、一応、極寒の生息する北海道が舞台。

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-✣ あとがき ✣-

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WE CAN GO HOME AT LAST!

THE CLINIC HERE IS SO WARM IT MAKES ME SLEEPY AND THE CLASS-ROOMS

ARE TOO COLD

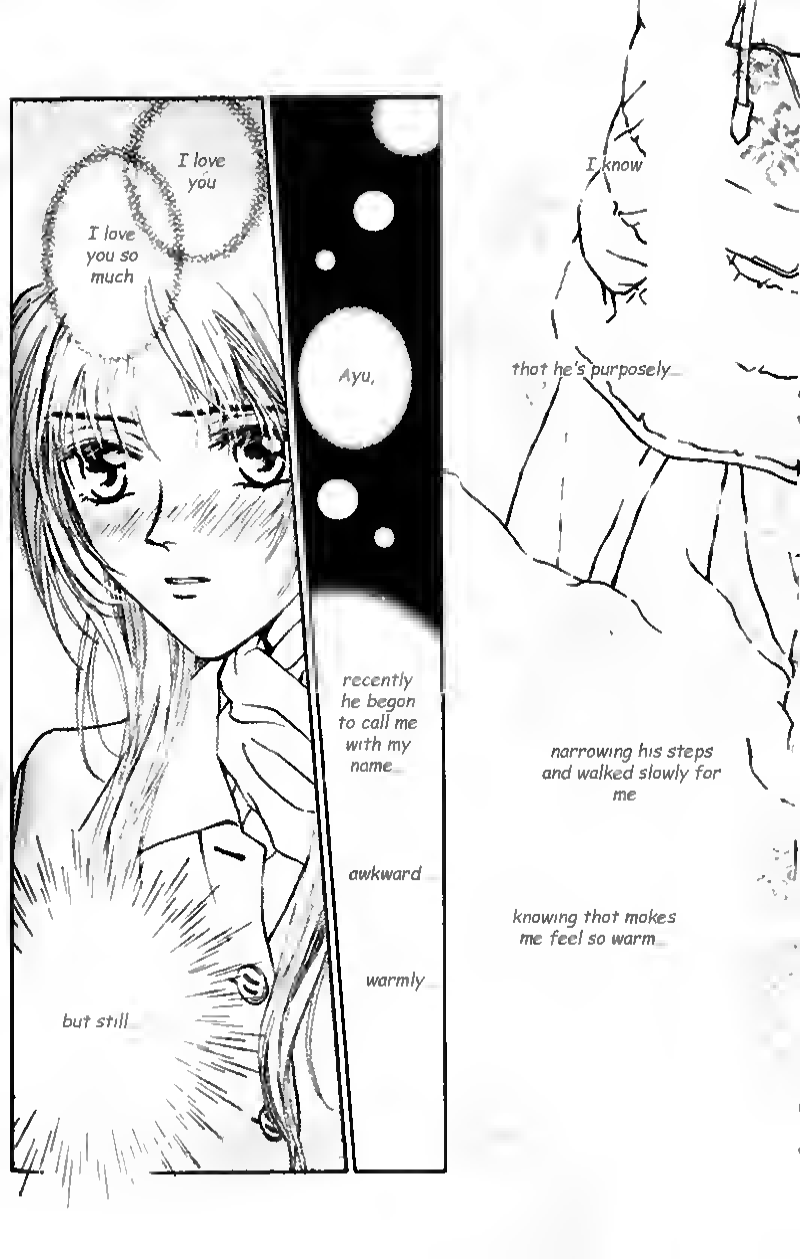
So sometimes, when we're waiting for the bus the snow falls and the bus will be late so we have to wait for the bus in the clinic
'cause it's warm there
THANK YOU.
NEVER MIND! CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME
the bus that take us home after school is coming at 6:30pm
STAFF'S ROOM
IT'S PILING UP SO MUCH!
SHIG
UWAAA!
...SO
AYU, AREN'T YOUR LEGS FREEZING IN THOSE BOOTS?
NO THANK YOU! UNBELIEVABLE!
POKU
WANT TO WEAR MY JERSEY?
NAKU NAKU
YOUR REQUEST IS TOO MUCH, I TOLD YOU
YOU WANT TO KNOW RIGHT? I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH IS, I'M...
OKAY, IF YOU CAN HOLD ME TILL WE GET HOME
WELL, WANT ME TO HOLD YOU?

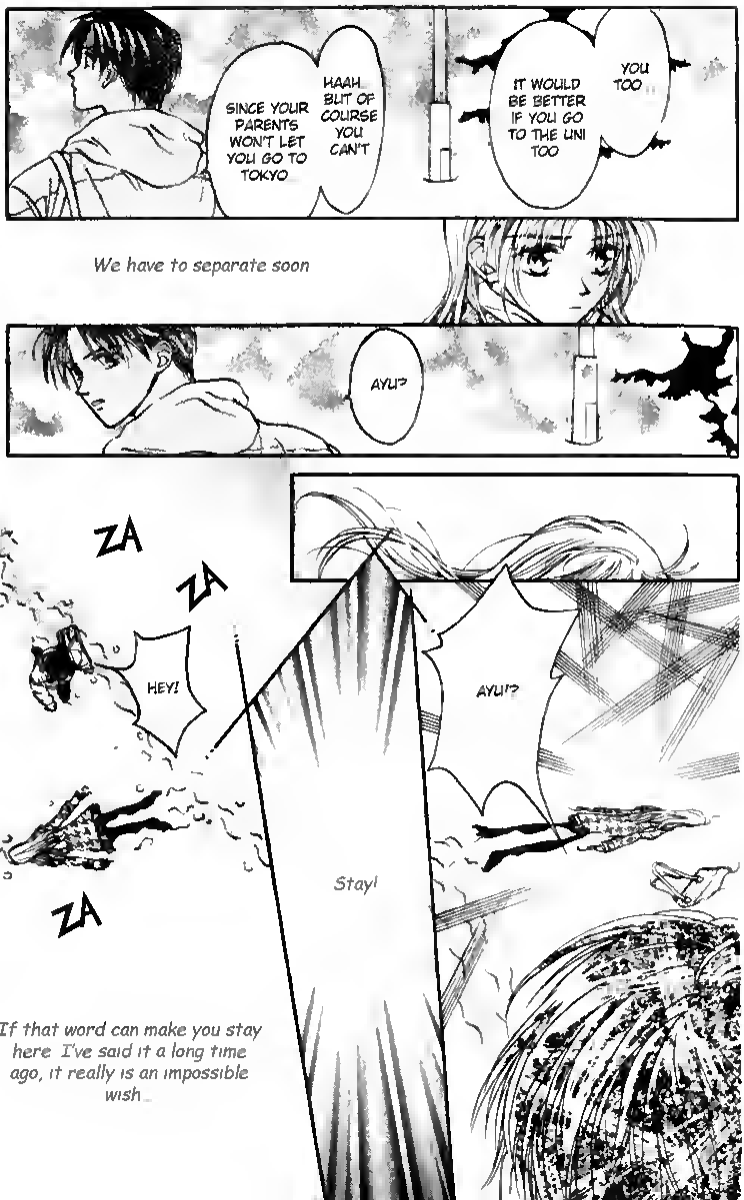
THE SNOW WOMAN
THE SNOW TODAY WAS CAUSED BY ME.
AH, SOMETIMES I CAN BE THE SUNNY WOMAN TOO, YOU KNOW.
HEY..
AYU..
WHAT?
...!
ER.
NEVERMIND

AH!
HAS NEVER CHANGED SINCE THE OLD TIMES
THAT INDECISIVE PART OF YOU...
ZAKU
HMPH
WAIT!
SAPPASHI
ZAKUZAKU
WHA..
WHAT NOW?
DON'T YOU THINK THE ORDER IS WRONG?
YOU SHOULD WALK IN MY TRAIL.
!
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU
ZAKU

3 years, since we entered highschool during winter

how many times have we been walking together like this


I love you
I love you so much
Ayu,
recently he begon to call me with my name...
awkward...
warmly...
but still...
I know
that he's purposely...
narrowing his steps and walked slowly for me
knowing that makes me feel so warm...


SINCE YOUR PARENTS WON'T LET YOU GO TO TOKYO
HAAH... BUT OF COURSE YOU CAN'T
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU GO TO THE UNI TOO
YOU TOO
We have to separate soon
AYU!?
ZA
ZA
HEY!
AYU!?
Stay!
ZA
If that word can make you stay here. I've said it a long time ago, it really is an impossible wish...

So, if we have to be separated I don't want you to know this feeling
WHAT HAPPEN?!
AYU!?
YOU'RE SO NOISY I'M COOLING MY HEAD HERE
.....
I THINK IT WILL EXPLODE FROM TOO MUCH STRESS
-SFX MUKYU!-
HEY!
SHUT UP!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
-SFX GABA-

I REALLY SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT YOU!
SORRY
PA
PA
IF I SAY THAT WOULD YOU FORGIVE ME?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
AYU.
CLICK
YOU'VE CHANGED.

LIKE THE ONE JUST NOW...
NO... RECENTLY YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT.
DOKIN
I KNOW YOU'RE A WELL COMPOSED TYPE OF PERSON
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT LATELY
KASU
AM I?
MAYBE I AM
YOU SEEM SO LONELY—
MAYBE.
IS IT...
BECAUSE I'M GOING TO TOKYO SOON?

HUH?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME
...WHAT ARE YOU... TALKING ABOUT?
I...
wait
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU.
wait a secand here, this is sa sudden

-SFX BASHI-
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECT, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TOKYO FOR?
ARE YOU DAY-DREAMING OR SOMETHING?!
WAKE UP!
SFX.PAFU
IF YOU WANT TO GO THERE FOR HAVING FUN THEN YOU BETTER STOP IT!
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING SO HARD UP TILL NOW!

I'VE ALWAYS MADE YOU WORRY ABOUT ME.
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL DO MY BEST!
SFX GOOOO
SURE
I'LL DO MY BEST AT MY WORK TOO.
SFX PASHU
SFX GOOO
AFTER GRADUATION, EVERYONE'LL HAVE TO WALK THEIR OWN PATH. IT'S A BIT LONELY.
YEAH.. IT IS..

->SFX:TSURU<-
UWA!

-SFX:THUMP-
WHA...
I KNOW...
ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WHAT YOU DID IN THE CLINIC...
THUMP
THUMP
WHAT?
THUMP
THUMP
YOU'RE NOT FAIR...
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

I never thought it'd turn out like this
HEY, YOU TWO!
ARE YOU COMING OR NOT?!
AH..
YES..
WE...!
WE'RE NOT!
is this really okay?
-SFX HA-
BATIN PASIU
DECIDE QUICKLY.
HEY, HEY.. DON'T TELL ME, YOU'RE GOING TO WAIT 3 HOURS FOR THE NEXT BUS?
IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T FINISHED TALKING YET
-SFX BLOOD-

YOU MUST PASS YOUR EXAM FOR SURE, OKAY!
?
I'LL... TRY...
UWA!
AH..
I'LL DEFINITELY PASS!
IT MUST BE A SHOCK...
FOR MY PARENTS... THE TEACHER... AND THE COMPANY TOO...
AAH... ESPECIALLY THAT IDIOT DAD...
I WISH I HAD THIS COURAGE IN THE FIRST PLACE...

KYO
LET'S MAKE TOKYO OUR NEW BEGINNING

Ephemeral-Dreams

proudly presents

Let the Time Freeze

Toraware no Minoue v01 side story 2

"Let the Time Freeze" brings an end to volume one of Toraware no Minoue. If you enjoyed this story, please, support the mangaka and purchase the retail version of this manga ^^ Remember, nothing beats owning the hard copy! Special thanks to everyone who helped make this long delayed release possible XD This release is dedicated to our luvable leader, Astash! Happy Anni EphD!

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